



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 7, 2000

### **S. 1211**

#### **An act to amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to authorize additional measures to carry out the control of salinity upstream of Imperial Dam in a cost-effective manner**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 24, 2000*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 1211 would authorize the appropriation of \$175 million for a program to control the salinity of the Colorado River upstream of the Imperial Dam. Under current law, the Congress has authorized the appropriation of \$75 million for this activity. The legislation would direct the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a report by June 30, 2000, on the status of the comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1211 would cost \$17 million over the 2000-2005 period. Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 1211 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). State and local governments might incur some costs to match the federal funds authorized by this legislation, but these costs would be voluntary.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1211 is shown in the following table. Of the \$75 million authorized under current law about \$36 million has been appropriated through fiscal year 2000. Assuming that annual appropriations for this program continue near the 2000 level of \$12 million, as anticipated by the Department of the Interior, the balance of the existing \$75 million authorization would not be exceeded until fiscal year 2004. Thus, CBO estimates that the additional \$100 million authorized by S. 1211 would be appropriated in 2004 and in the following years. We estimate that the report required by S. 1211 would cost less than \$500,000 in fiscal year 2000. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Spending Under Current Law						
Estimated Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	12	12	12	12	2	0
Estimated Outlays	12	12	12	12	6	1
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	b	0	0	0	10	12
Estimated Outlays	b	0	0	0	6	11
Spending Under S. 1211						
Estimated Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	12	12	12	12	12	12
Estimated Outlays	12	12	12	12	12	12

a. The 2000 level is the amount appropriated for the Colorado River salinity control program for that year. The estimated levels for fiscal years 2001 through 2004 represent the use of the remaining authorization under current law.

b. Less than \$500,000.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 1211 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. State and local governments might incur some costs to match the federal funds authorized by this legislation, but these costs would be voluntary.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On October 5, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1211 as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on September 22, 1999. The two versions of the legislation are nearly identical, and the cost estimates are the same, except CBO's estimate for the Senate version only included estimated spending for fiscal years 2000 through 2004.

**ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Rachel Applebaum

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller

Impact on the Private Sector: Natalie Tawil

**ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis